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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/791,012	03/02/2004	Anne Flisher	GT/3-21923/A/AC/ 533/CONT	1286
324	7590	01/13/2005	EXAMINER	
CIBA SPECIALTY CHEMICALS CORPORATION			BERMAN, SUSAN W	
PATENT DEPARTMENT			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
540 WHITE PLAINS RD				
P O BOX 2005			1711	
TARRYTOWN, NY 10591-9005			DATE MAILED: 01/13/2005	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/791,012	FLISHER ET AL.
	Examiner Susan W Berman	Art Unit 1711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11, 17 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-11, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/890,129.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/04, 6/04.

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-11 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cywar et al (6,262,141). Cywar et al teach polymerizing vinyl monomers, including acrylamide, in aqueous solution activated by the presence of redox initiators or a thermal initiator and in the presence of an ultraviolet photoinitiator. The product is then irradiated with an intensity of 2-20 mW/cm², such as 15 mW/cm² in the examples, during the period of drying. See column 4, lines 25-39, lines 46-67, column 5, lines 23-34, the “Gelled Polymer Synthesis” and Example 1. With respect to claim 5, the polymers disclosed by Cywar et al would be expected to have the instantly claimed intrinsic viscosity because the polymers produced are provided by the same monomers and method steps as are instantly claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0 290 814 in view of Cywar et al '141. EP '814 discloses the instantly claimed method except for adding an ultraviolet initiator to the monomer mixture. Cywar et al, in analogous art, teach that vinyl monomers can be polymerized in aqueous solution by activation of redox or thermal initiators in the presence of an ultraviolet initiator. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to add an ultraviolet initiator to the monomer mix, as taught by Cywar et al in analogous art, in the method disclosed by EP '814 in order to take advantage of the initiating properties of the ultraviolet initiator during the step of irradiation with ultraviolet light, as taught by Cywar et al.

Conclusion

Kanluen et al (5,185,385), Baumstark et al (5,756,574) and EP 0 290 814 are cited as art of interest. Kanluen et al, Baumstark et al and EP '814 each disclose crosslinked polymers produced by process steps different from those set forth in the instant claims. Kanluen et al teach a high conversion of monomer and discloses yields over 99% (column 4, lines 38-44). Baumstark et al teach a process for reducing the residual monomer content (see the Abstract and Table 1. EP 0 290 814 teaches that the material obtained by the disclosed process has an "extremely reduced amount of unreacted monomers" (page 4, lines 27-34).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan W Berman whose telephone number is 571 272 1067. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on 571 272 1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Susan W Berman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1711

SB
January 10, 2005